

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action the Examiner objects to the disclosure because the Examiner states that headings are missing in the Specification. In response, applicant respectfully declines amending the present application to include section headings. The Examiner is respectfully advised that the inclusion of section headings is stated in the above-referenced section as being preferable, but is not required.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action the Examiner states that the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 5, 2001 fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2) which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent. Specifically, the Examiner states that a copy of EP 0895 380 A2 was not provided (for the record, a copy of the reference was provided with applicant's April 19, 2006 Amendment). In response, submitted with this response is yet another copy of EP 0895 380 A2 and a new Form PTO/SB/08A listing the patent thereon. It is respectfully requested that an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A be returned with the next Patent Office communication to indicate that the reference has been considered by the Examiner and to indicate that the reference has been made of record in connection with the present application.

In the Office Action, claims 29-39 are rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112. In response, claim 29 is amended in a sincere effort to obviate the indefiniteness rejection. In view of the amendment of claim 29, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 29-39 are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ambrosoli, et al. Claims 29-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ambrosoli, et al. Claims 47-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Ambrosoli, et al. in view U.S. Patent No. 6,724,757 to Zadikian, et al.

In response, applicant respectfully states that independent claim 28, which is the only independent claim in the present application, is patentable over all of the cited references when taken either alone or in combination.

In rejecting claim 28, the Examiner relies upon Ambrosoli, et al. It is respectfully submitted that Ambrosoli, et al. only disclose general configurations of IS-IS and ES-IS configuration parameters and fails to disclose, teach or suggest the present claimed invention as defined by claim 28.

The present claimed invention as defined by independent claim 28 is directed to a mechanism to reduce the traffic and computational overhead associated therewith in a network. The claimed arrangement avoids network elements forming a digital communication network being seen as Intermediate Systems (with the associated overhead) while maintaining a level of resilience against network failures. A network constructed in accordance with the present claimed invention is designed to have reduced overheads while having the resilience of a traditional network like that disclosed in Ambrosoli, et al. Thus, the present claimed invention provides a significant improvement in the reduction of traffic when compared to the network configuration disclosed in Ambrosoli, et al., without sacrificing resilience.

Claim 28 specifically requires the gateway network elements and further network elements "...configured such as to make the one or more further network elements appear as end systems..." (see claim 28, lines 9-10). The claim also defines the gateway network elements as

being connected to each Local Area Network and the further network elements forming part of a routing area (see claim 28, lines 2-4). The further network elements are adapted to appear as intermediate systems (IS) to each other and further network elements within the routing area, the end systems being made known to the rest of the communications system by LSP packets generated by the gateway network elements.

In the Office Action, the Examiner points to pages 224 and 226 of Ambrosoli, et al. in general as teaching these features. Applicant has considered these pages and the entire Ambrosoli et al. reference in detail and has not been able to identify a specific teaching of making the further network elements appear as end systems as recited in claim 28. On page 224 of Ambrosoli, et al., there is a discussion regarding partitioning of the network into domains, the integration of the Operations Systems, static routing and the optimization of the network topology for efficiency. Ambrosoli, et al. do mention that the topology should be such to “Reduce the overhead traffic by the IS-IS protocol” and to “reduce the amount of memory required...” These are some of the advantages achieved by the present claimed invention, but Ambrosoli, et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest the configuration specifically recited in claim 28 to achieve these advantages. To the contrary, Ambrosoli, et al. mention keeping path lengths short, arranging the network to prevent bottlenecks and partitioning of the network. None of these considerations relate to, suggest, or teach the invention recited in claim 28.

At page 226 of Ambrosoli, et al., there is a discussion regarding link failure in general, the introduction of static routing areas for network elements that do not support IS-IS/ES-IS routing and configuring the IS-IS routing parameters to suit the network topology. In particular, Ambrosoli, et al. mention defining the external domain interfaces for the location in the network. Also, the Level2Only parameter can be configured on relevant interfaces where it

is pointless to transmit Level 1 PDUs toward external areas. Once again, these configuration parameters are standard options when setting up IS-IS routing. Applicant respectfully submits that at no point do Ambrosoli, et al. disclose, teach or suggest making the one or more further network elements appear as end systems, as claimed and discussed above.

The Examiner states in his “Response to Arguments” on page 12 of the Office Action that Ambrosoli, et al. mention that the Ambrosoli, et al. system could act as ES-IS, which L1 becomes an end system and refers to section 3.1. Applicant has also carefully considered the disclosure of Ambrosoli, et al. in view of the Examiner’s comments as well as section 3.1. Ambrosoli, et al. is concerned with the design of the network for a network planner and, in particular, how the network should be partitioned for effective IS-IS configuration. Further, it is discussed how the planning of a network should take account of the capabilities of the network elements and what should be considered. Applicant has considered the Examiner’s objections but disagrees with the Examiner’s position that Ambrosoli, et al. disclose the invention as claimed. In particular, claim 28 specifically defines the various network elements and how they are configured to appear as end systems and their appearance in the routing area. The Examiner’s comments do not support the position that Ambrosoli et al. teach the invention.

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claim 28 is new and inventive over the cited prior art. Allowance of the application is therefore requested. If the Examiner maintains his rejection of claim 28 in reply to this response, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner specifically and thoroughly state how Ambrosoli, et al. disclose, teach or even suggest even suggest the invention as claimed in the next Patent Office communication.

None of the other references of record close the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by independent claim 28 and Ambrosoli, et al. Therefore, claim 28 is

patentable over Ambrosoli, et al. and all of the references of record under 35 U.S.C. §102 as well as 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claims 29-53 are either directly or indirectly dependent on claim 28 and are patentable over the cited references in view of their dependence on claim 28 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in the dependent claims.

In view of all of the foregoing, claims 28-53 are in form for immediate allowance.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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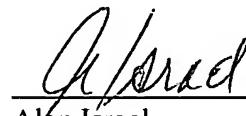
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